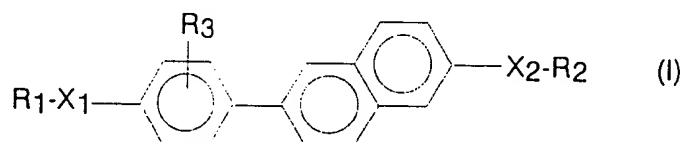


ABSTRACT

A liquid crystalline compound having a novel structure and a process for producing the same are provided. The liquid crystalline compound is represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2 ; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a fluorine atom, or a methyl group; and X_1 and X_2 each independently represent an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a $-CO-$, $-OCO-$, $-COO-$, $-N=CH-$, $-CONH-$, $-NH-$, $-NHCO-$, or $-CH_2-$ group.